

## What's New for MI-Access Spring 2015?



This year the statewide assessment windows shifted from fall 2014 to spring 2015. This brought about major changes to the way the tests are developed and administered. The biggest differences are that all of the grades (3–8, and 11) will be administered during this time, will have some online features available for each test, and Social Studies will be available operationally for the first time for students taking Functional Independence in grades 5, 8, and 11. In addition the ELA: Expressing Ideas content area has now been expanded to include 3–8, and 11 (ELA: EI is available in paper/pencil format only).

The purpose of this document is to provide a quick reference list of the changes for MI-Access. The web page ([www.mi.gov/mi-access](http://www.mi.gov/mi-access)) will host guiding documents such as the *MI-Access Online Test Administrator Manual* which provides the testing instructions for the FI online administration and the *MI-Access P/SI Online Answer Document Instructions* for the P/SI online answer documents.

### **Changes to Functional Independence**

- When making a decision to use the online testing mode for FI students, you need to consider if this is a part of the student's typical instructional routine. This decision is best made by the IEP team to help ensure the best testing experience for the student.
- FI will be delivered and administered online. For students who cannot be assessed online schools/districts may order paper/pencil for them. Online waivers requests were submitted through November 21, 2014 allowing entire school buildings to opt out of testing online for all their students. All other schools would administer the tests online with potentially some paper/pencil students as necessary.
- Past cycles of MI-Access (FI) have been based on the prior year EGLCEs. In moving the testing cycle to spring we aligned the EGLCE with the actual grade of the students.
- FI ELA: Expressing Ideas will be assessed in **ALL** grades (previously was grades 4, 7, and 11).
- FI ELA: Expressing Ideas (grades 3-8, & 11) will **NOT** be online for any grade. This will be a paper/pencil administered test for all grades since the technology currently is not in place to capture constructed responses for the FI population. This material will require schools/districts to order for all FI students being tested.
- The audio CD for ELA: accessing print and ELA: expressing Ideas is still **combined on one CD** and the label indicates that it is for both content areas even though the booklets are separated this year.
- Social studies will be available for FI students grades 5, 8, and 11 (P/SI will be locally developed/approved as in the past).
- Science will be assessed in 4, 7, and 11 (previously was grades 5, 8, and 11).

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- For the FI online assessments, there will be two parts (two test tickets). A test ticket will be issued for each part of the test, which are designed to be taken in one day. See Online Assessment documents on the MI-Access web page for more information.
- Students would need to have students pre-identified for FI before an order may be placed for materials.
- The participating flexibility between the general and alternate assessments (FI only) will be continued in the future and will include grade 11 for M-STEP. **Note:** the ELA portions may not be split between any assessments.

## **Changes to Supported Independence and Participation**

- Students would need to be pre-identified for P or SI before an order may be placed for materials.
- P/SI will continue to be paper/pencil including the picture cards. This is not a change for this year.
- P/SI Answer Documents will be an online portal. NO paper answer documents will be produced for P/SI. This is different than last year. Instructions for using the online answer document are posted on the MI-Access web page ([www.mi.gov/mi-access](http://www.mi.gov/mi-access)) in the *MI-Access P/SI Online Answer Document Instructions*.
- Test tickets will be issued for online testing, including P/SI for entering scores. (See the *MI-Access P/SI Online Answer Document Instructions* for more information)
- P/SI has removed the administrators tear out sheets (usually found in back of booklets) and will be provided as a separate material called "Scoring Documents." These documents mirror the look and feel of the online answer document to provide an easy method of transferring the student scores.
- Science will be assessed in 4, 7, and 11 (previously was grades 5, 8, and 11).
- ELA, mathematics, and science for P/SI grade 11 will be combined in one test booklet and one set of matching picture cards.